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The URBAN DISTRICT of LITHERLAND.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

T. D. WILLIAMS, M.B., B.S. (Lond.),

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).

For the Year Ended December 31st, 1920.

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The URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL of LITHERLAND.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
LITHERLAND.
25th May, 1921.

To THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMAN,

I have the honour to submit in accordance with the Regulations of the Local Government Board and the Memorandum dated 1912, my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Litherland, for the year ending 31st December, 1920.

In this year's statistics the figure of 17,500—as supplied by the Registrar General—has been used for the estimated population.

The Health of the District during the year has been fairly satisfactory. The death rate for residents registered in the District was 8 85, and including residents who died outside the District 13 2, this being the lowest death rate since 1912.

The number of Infectious cases notified was 104, as against 259 during the previous year and only 58 were removed to hospital compared with 133 in 1919, No deaths occurred from Influenza.

In the District there are a number of houses unfit for human habitation but which could be rendered fit by sanitary alterations. Notices are being served under the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act 1919, and it is hoped during the coming year to deal with the whole of the property coming under this category.

Since the year 1911, only 9 new houses have been erected in the District.

It is estimated that there are 3055 houses of Artisan type. These include 16 back to-back dwellings. A large portion of these houses have only two bedrooms and in many cases are occupied by two families or more. There is serious overcrowding. The Council have made every possible endeavour to build houses under the 1919 Act, but the scheme has been continually held back by the Housing Commissioner Several hundred persons engaged at work in the District have to reside in other Districts. New Factories are being erected which will employ several hundred additional workpeople and unless houses are speedily built serious inconvenience, hardship and overcrowding will increase.

Refuse Disposal. The present system of dumping house refuse on agricultural land in the District is not desirable and a more up-to-date and hygienic method should be adopted, by either pulverising the refuse or burning in a refuse destructor. The District contains 1,783 fixed ashpits, the majority of which are insanitary and should be replaced by ashbins. It is desirable that a *weekly collection of house refuse should be adopted* and that the *tipping of house refuse into the street should be abandoned*—a basket collection being substituted or preferably the refuse should be tipped directly into a standing cart.

Flooding by Sewage, of the lower portion of the town is still prevalent and it is hoped that steps will be taken to prevent this menace to health.

The traffic in the District is conjested; Linacre Road in particular, is a source of danger to pedestrians For this reason a suitable Arterial Road should be constructed, and I trust the Hawthorne Road Development Scheme will be proceeded with.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. D. WILLIAMS.,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LITHERLAND.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1920.

Rateble Value of the District	£64,318
General District Rate	6/-
Poor Rate	7/9
1d. in the £ yeilds approximately	£227

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area, in acres	865
Estimated Population	17,500
Number of Houses in District	3,255
Number of Persons per House	5.3
Birth Rate per 1,000 living	31.8
Death Rate per 1,000	13.2
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births	82.58
Total Deaths from Epidemic Diarrhœa	7
Epidemic Diarrhœa Mortality per 1,000 Births	12 54
Death Rate faom Tuberculosis per 1,000 living	1.37
Uncertified Deaths	8

Preceding Census Population

1881	2,426	1901	10,592
1891	4,441	1911	14,796

The "Natural Increase," or excess of Births over Deaths is 325 as compared with 15 in 1919, 118 in 1918, 179 in 1917, 243 in 1916, 230 in 1915, 245 in 1914 and 254 in 1913.

BIRTHS.

The number of Children born in the District during 1920 was 557; 293 males and 264 females.

The Birth Rate is 31.8 per 1,000 of an estimated population of 17,500

Table of Birth Rates.

Year	Rate per 1,000	Year	Rate per 1,000
1919	25.18	1914	32.56
1918	24.00	1913	31.75
1917	24.73	1912	33.07
1916	31.66	1911	33.67
1915	30.77	1910	30.68

Mean Rate for 10 years 1910 to 1919 ... ... 29.5
Increase on Rate for 1920 as against Rate for 1919 ... ... 7.8
Increase on 10 years average 2.3

DEATHS.

The total number of Deaths during the year was 232; 123 Males and 109 Females, equal to a Death Rate of 13.20 per 1,000 of an estimated population of 17,500.

Table of Death Rates.

Year	Rate per 1,000	Year	Rate per 1.000
1919	15.68	1914	17.25
1918	16.62	1913	15.87
1917	15.51	1912	12.08
1916	15.55	1911	16.21
1915	16.05	1910	11.87

Mean Death Rate for 10 years 1910 to 1919 ... ... 15.4

The Death Rate for Litherland Residents registered in the District is 8.85.

There were 80 Deaths of Litherland residents who died outside the District "included."

The age periods of the deaths were :—

Year	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 years and upwards
1920	46	19	7	15	18	39	53	35
1919	37	26	15	10	17	38	50	58
1918	26	16	19	31	27	56	50	48
1917	51	14	24	11	11	31	52	36
1916	53	18	17	12	9	38	44	50
1915	56	14	16	15	12	33	51	44
1914	74	22	22	12	10	36	59	41

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

During the year 46 children died, who at the time of their deaths, had not reached the age of one year.

This gives an Infantile Mortality rate of 82.58 per 1,000 births.

Table of Infantile Mortality.

Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total	Death Rate per 1000
1920.....	18	8	9	11	46	82
1919.....	14	10	5	8	37	91
1918.....	10	3	10	3	26	67
1917.....	16	13	10	12	51	133
1916.....	10	11	15	17	53	107
1915.....	12	10	19	25	66	137
1914.....	35	18	10	11	74	142
1913.....	22	15	16	22	75	147
1912.....	9	6	3	13	31	63
1911.....	13	14	25	23	75	150
1910.....	12	7	18	13	50	101

Table of Zymotic Deaths.

	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	3	8	1	3	4	...	2	1	...	1	2
Diphiheria	5	3	1	3	6	5	2	1	2	1	2
Measles	5	1	6	4	6	1	7	8	5	3	4
Whooping Cough	6	...	1	8	2	3	...	15	...	8	7
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...
Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Diarrhœal Diseases caused 7 deaths under the age of 2 years.

	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
Zymotic Death Rate ...	1.14	0.75	0.68	1.47	1.15	2.24	1.88	2.5	0.99	2.7	1.75

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

104 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

	Cases Notified.										
	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
Scarlet Fever	59	181	61	50	64	54	57	21	29	32	69
Diphtheria	34	39	41	16	14	29	9	13	16	9	19
Enteric Fever	2	1	1	...	2	3	2	1	2	...	4
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	4	5	5	...	6	7	1	3	...	10	5
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1	2	...	2	3	1	3	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	6	3	3	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenzal Pneumonia ...	...	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Anthrax	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	104	259	112	73	93	95	73	39	50	55	97

Infectious Diseases.

	Cases removed to Hospital.										
	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	4	...
Scarlet Fever	30	105	38	23	25	42	35	21	22	18	48
Diphtheria	22	27	27	15	13	22	5	13	8	9	11
Enteric Fever	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	6
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	...	4	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Opthalmia Neonatorum ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Anthrax	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	58	133	70	40	38	66	41	39	32	31	65

Table showing Notifications in each Quarter of the year 1920.

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	24	17	7	11	59
Diphtheria	10	9	7	8	34
Enteric Fever	...	1	1	...	2
Continued Fever	...	..	...	...	...
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	2	...	1	4
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	1	...	...	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	1	1	2
Influenza Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...
Anthrax	...	...	...	1	1
	36	29	16	23	104

Comparative Table of Quarterly Notifications.

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
1920	36	29	16	23	104
1919	43	52	52	112	259
1918	39	20	22	31	112
1917	21	8	8	36	73
1916	14	16	19	44	93
1915	14	11	34	36	95
1914	13	16	23	20	72
1913	9	7	8	15	39
1912	12	10	20	8	50
1911	19	18	8	11	56
1910	29	23	25	20	57

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 49 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 14 cases of other types of Tuberculosis notified.

	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
Cases notified ...	63	96	79	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Deaths	28	29	30	21	29	22	25	17	15	4	10
Death rate ...	1.6	1.85	2.00	1.41	1.85	1.40	1.56	1.06	0.99	0.27	0.62

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December 1920.

1.—General.

(1) Estimated population	17,500
(2) General death rate	13.2
(3) Death-rate from Tuberculosis	1.6
(4) Infantile mortality	82.58
(5) Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	3.255
(6) Number of working-class dwelling-houses	3.055
(7) Number of new working-class houses erected. ...	——

2.—Unfit Dwelling-Houses. ...

1.—Inspection

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), ...	803
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.	134
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	——
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	122

2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	657

3.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. *Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act,* 1919. ——

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(*a*) by owners	
(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close. ...

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—

(*a*) by owners ... ...
(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners ...

C. *Proceedings under sections* 17 *and* 18 *of the Housing, Town Planning, &c.*, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... ...

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ...

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-house having been rendered fit ... ...

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ...

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. ... ...

3.—Unhealthy Areas.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (*a*), Part I., or (*b*), Part II., of the Act of 1890 :—

(1) Name of Area ... ...
(2) Acreage ... ...
(3) Number of working class houses in area ... ...
(4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced ...

4.—Number of houses not complying with the building byelaws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 ...

5.—Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer ... ...

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.
in connection with
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

Number of Inspections and nature of Defects.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including factory laundries) ...	36	1	
Workshops (including workshop laundries)	64	1	
Workplaces (including outworkers premises and bakehouses)	40		
	140	2	

Defects found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

Particulars	Number of defects.			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	No. of Prosecutions
Nuisances under public health Acts ...				
Want of cleanliness				
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Defective drainage				
Other nuisances				
San. accomodation:—				
insufficient				
unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	1	
separation of sexes				
Offences under Factory and Workshops Acts				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses				
Breach of sanitary requirements for bakehouses				
Offences relating to outwork				
Total	2	2	1	NIL.

OFFENSIVE TRADES. These are represented by one tripe-dresser and four fellmongers. The written consent of the Local Authority as to the establishment of these trades has been obtained The trades are conducted in a satisfactory manner.

BAKEHOUSES:— There are 8 in number; all are in a satisfactory condition. and are well conducted.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, and MILKSHOPS:— There are 9 cowkeepers and dairymen, and 7 milkshops within the District. The premises are visited periodically, and a constant supervision is maintained.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES:— Only one "registered" slaughter house exists within the District, practically the whole of the meat supply coming into the District, from the Birkenhead and Liverpool Lairages

FISH FRYING SHOPS:— There are 11 fish and chipped potato vendors established within the District. A constant supervision has to be maintained in respect to these establishments, in order to ensure a cleanly and sanitary condition of the premises, utensils, and surroundings.

SALE of FOOD and DRUGS ACT. Police Superintendent Wilcock of the Lancashire Constubulary, being the duly appointed officer under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, kindly supplied the following information, in conection with the work done by his appartment.

Samples forwarded to Public Analyst.	37
No. of Prosecutions	4
No. of Convictions	4

The SANITARY INSPECTIONS of the DISTRICT. These have been carried out in a systematic manner and a perusal of the following list, will show the varied amount of work carried out by the Health Department.

Abatement of Nuisances.	No.
Drains repaired and obstructions removed	126
Defective gullies	2
Defective water closets	68
Roofs to W.Cs repaired	12
Defective soil pipes	7
Defective water supply to house	6
Defective floors in dwelling-houses	10
Accumulation of manure	2

Defective water supplies in W.Cs	6
Dilapidated ash bins	121
Insanitary yard surfaces	28
Defective sink waste pipes	13
Defective brickwork	10
Defective eaves, gutters and R.W. pipes	46
Dangerous chimney stacks	3
Dangerous walls	5
Repairs to ceilings and walls	28
Repairs to window sashes and frames	19
Leaky roofs of dwelling-houses	56
Repairs to doors	17
Defective water-taps	1
Ash-pits abolished	19
Repairs to ash-pits	10
Defective wash boilers	15
Defective sinks	2
Gratings to gullies	18
Defective channels to gullies	16
Animals kept as to be a nuisance	3
Total	669

My thanks are due, and warmly accorded to the various Members of the Council for considering advice given by me and to the Health Department Staff for the assistance given to me in the discharging of the duties of the Medical Officer of Health.

Your Obedient Servant,

T. D. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health